

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 PA-03

PRS-01 RSR-01 /129 W

----- 040877

R 111903 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 044

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR FR NL

SUBJECT: CALL ON MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF INTERIOR MARCELLIN INDICATES (1) CLOSE FRENCH- US COOPERATION AND HIGH LEVEL OF FRENCH COMMITMENT IN FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING WILL CONTINUE, (2) NEED FOR DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STRONGER STAND IN VIEW OF INCREASING TRAFFICKING IN ASIAN HEROIN THROUGH NETHERLANDS, AND (3) FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF MECHANISM TO INDUCE COOPERATION FROM ARRESTED VIOLATORS BY GRANTING REDUCED SENTENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MY INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR MARCELLIN, RECALLING MY PREVIOUS CALL ON HIM IN 1971 DURING MY TENURE AS UNDER SECRETARY, I BEGAN BY EXPRESSING MY APPRECIATION AND THAT OF MY GOVERNMENT FOR THE MINISTER' S PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FOR THE GREAT
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EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES OF THE INTERVENING YEAR AND A HALF. MARCELLIN REFERRED TO HIS CLOSE WORKING AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR WATSON. WE BOTH AGREED WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO CONTINUE THIS CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR GOVERN-

MENTS.

3. MARCELLIN SAID HE THOUGHT THE FRENCH, WHO HE SAID HAD BEEN PROCEEDING BY STAGES, HAD NOW REACHED A NEW STAGE WHERE ADDITIONAL EFFORTS WERE REQUIRED. HE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS READY TO PROVIDE WHATEVER HIS NARCOTICS POLICE NEEDED AND THAT SPECIFICALLY HE WAS GOING TO PROVIDE A SLIGHT INCREASE IN MANPOWER AND ONE " VERY FAST" CAR FOR MARSEILLE.

4. MARCELLIN REFERRED TO THE MEETING OF THE " POMPIDOU INITIATIVE" ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE IN ROME AS EVIDENCE OF THE FRENCH EFFORT TO WORK WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THIS NEW STAGE. I REPLIED I HAD READ OF THE MEETING IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN LEARNING EVENTUALLY ABOUT THE OUTCOME.

5. MARCELLIN ALSO REFERRED TO THE INCREASING THREAT POSED BY TRAFFICKING IN THE NETHERLANDS. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE EFFORT AND SUCCESS AROUND MARSEILLE, HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE OF THE DUTCH COULD LEAD TO GREATER TRAFFICKING AND PERHAPS EVEN TO THE SETTING UP OF LABORATORIES IN HOLLAND. A FRENCH TEAM HAD RECENTLY VISITED THE NETHERLANDS, HE SAID, TO INVESTIGATE THE INCREASING APPEARANCE OF ASIAN HEROIN (SPECIFICALLY " BROWN SUGAR" AND " BROWN ROCK"). HE OBSERVED THAT HEROIN IN AMSTERDAM WAS IMMEDIATELY EQUIVALENT TO HEROIN IN BRUSSELS, PARIS OR THE FRG. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT BNDD AGENT IN BRUSSELS WAS WELL AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM. WHAT WAS MOST NEEDED, MARCELLIN SAID, WAS TO PERSUADE THE DUTCH AUTHORITIES TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. I MENTIONED I EXPECTED TO SEE OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS -- AND THAT I WOULD TALK WITH HIM TO SEE IF WE COULD WORK WITH THE FRENCH TO PERSUADE THE DUTCH TO TAKE A FIRMER POSITION.

6. MARCELLIN VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HOPED I WOULD NOT HESITATE, WHENEVER I SAW ANY FLAWS IN WHAT THE FRENCH WERE DOING OR HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT, TO CALL HIM AS AMBASSADOR
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WATSON HAD DONE; HE WOULD ALWAYS BE READY TO MEET WITH ME AND TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO SOLVE WHATEVER THE PROBLEM WAS.

7. WITH THIS OPENING I REFERRED TO MY EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN WHICH WE HAD TALKED OF THE UTILITY OF HAVING OUR LEGAL EXPERTS EXCHANGE IDEAS ON TECHNIQUES OF PROSECUTION. IN PARTICULAR, I MENTIONED HOW USEFUL IN OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE " PLEA BARGAINING" OR PROMISES OF REDUCED SENTENCES HAVE PROVED TO INDUCE COOPERATION FROM ARRESTED VIOLATORS. THE INFORMATION SUCH COOPERATING DEFENDANTS PROVIDE LEADS TO WIDER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WAY CRIMINAL GANGS OPERATE AND TO WIDER ARRESTS. I SAID I RECOGNIZED THE FRENCH SYSTEM

OPERATED DIFFERENTLY, BUT THAT AT LEAST FOR CRIMES LIKE TREASON AND COUNTERFEITING IT SEEMED POSSIBLE UNDER FRENCH LAW TO PROVIDE REDUCED SENTENCES FOR COOPERATING DEFENDANTS. I ASKED MARCELLIN WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THE SAME POSSIBILITY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIMES.

8. MARCELLIN SAID HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT INDEED BE USEFUL AND POSSIBLE. (COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH BOTH INTERIOR AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES).

9. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE PERVERTED AS IN THE DELOUETTE CASE. AS TO THE DELOUETTE CASE HE REPEATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO TRUTH IN DELOUETTE'S ALLEGATIONS OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF SDECE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND THAT IT WAS " INCONCEIVABLE" THAT AN OFFICER OF SDECE COULD BE INVOLVED IN SUCH THINGS.

10. OUR CONVERSATION WAS PARTLY IN FRENCH AND PARTLY IN ENGLISH, MARCELLIN DEMONSTRATING VERY GOOD COMPREHENSION OF ENGLISH AND MODERATELY GOOD SPEAKING ABILITY. IRWIN

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